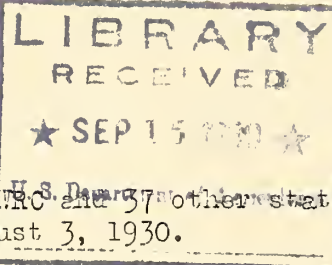


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JULY WEATHER



A radio talk by J.B. Kincer, delivered through WRC and 37 other stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, August 3, 1930.

How-do-you-do, friends! I trust that we of the Weather Bureau can still claim you as our friends, but, if we were really responsible for this summer's weather, you would be justified in cutting out your radio when the Weather Bureau man is announced. It isn't necessary to tell you it has been hot and dry, for you know that too well already, but, perhaps, you will be interested in a birdseye view of just what has happened to bring about the present situation. Our July reports, and those for the week ending yesterday show very little relief from the severe drought, and that it is rapidly growing worse in many sections of the country. Droughts are more or less common in the United States, with a greater or less degree of severity, but that now prevailing is distinguished by the immense area covered and the record-breaking duration of deficient rainfall in many places, accompanied by high temperatures. Over most of the country east of the Rocky Mountains, the drought is now in its third to ninth month, depending on the locality, and the warm period, with a few breaks, is entering its eighth week.

Now, if you will make a mental picture of the map of the United States, we will briefly describe just what has happened. Last winter, a wide belt, extending from Maryland and West Virginia south-westward to the Gulf, had little more than half the normal rainfall, and, for the three spring months, March to May, like conditions prevailed from Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina, westward to the central Mississippi Valley. June rainfall was scanty, especially in the middle Atlantic area, and the Ohio and lower half of the Mississippi Valleys, with less than 10 per cent to only about half the normal. Following this, July was dry nearly everywhere, extremely so in many places, and in addition the drought was aggravated by abnormally high temperatures.

Where the winter and spring droughts overlapped, and with deficient rainfall in June and July, notably in Virginia, Maryland and West Virginia, the drought extends back to December, with 60 to 65 per cent of the normal rainfall for eight months, making it the longest and most severe drought of record. Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri, have been dry since March, and in most places of this large area it was the driest period in Climatological history. For July, Missouri had but little more than one-tenth its normal rainfall; Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Texas, and Oklahoma, only one-quarter to about one-third; while Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, the northern Ohio Valley States, and Iowa, received only a third to about half of the usual July amount. In many of these States it was the driest July of record and in the upper Mississippi Valley, especially in Iowa, the driest in 36 years, and the following early days of August had record-breaking temperatures, which was especially unfavorable for corn.

Within the last day or two, a few local areas have received temporary relief, but the drought in general is unbroken up to the present. Streams have become extremely low practically everywhere, and the scarcity of water for livestock, and in some sections for domestic use, is a serious problem, especially in Kentucky and some other parts of the interior valleys. Winter wheat was not affected by the drought, in fact, the weather was favorable for ripening, which gave a good quality of grain and better yields than expected in many places. Early spring wheat also largely escaped, but heat and drought damaged the late crop considerably, especially in the shriveling of grain. In general, oats were less harmed than spring wheat, though the late crop was badly damaged in the North-Central States, notably in the upper Mississippi Valley, and late flax has been materially reduced, with reports that many fields in North Dakota will not be harvested. Potatoes have been seriously harmed in the interior valleys, but so far are still in fairly good shape in many heavy producing sections. Late truck crops and gardens, pastures, and hay, and corn have been the hardest hit, and the damage to these, together with a shortage of water for livestock and other uses in many places, constitute the most serious aspect of the drought. Most pasture lands would revive rapidly with good rains soon, but a great deal of the others, especially on uplands in the middle Atlantic area, the Ohio and middle and lower Mississippi Valley, are beyond recovery, even with good rains soon.

Considering all aspects of the drought on a State basis, Kentucky is probably the hardest hit of any of the affected States, but conditions are also very bad in the Virginias and Maryland, Ohio, southern Indiana and southern Illinois, much of Iowa, Missouri, and the western Cotton Belt States, as well as many places in the Great Plains. The corn crop especially has suffered, with more or less damage extending into all States which grow an appreciable amount. In Ohio the crop has been going back at an alarming rate, and much corn is beyond recovery, while in Kentucky, the early crop is gone in the western and northern portions. Northern Indiana has fared better, because of recent local rains, but in the south the drought is severe, with many fields drying up, tassels burned, and improvement possible in some sections only on late bottom-lands. Damage has been extremely heavy in southern Illinois, but not so great in the north, while in Missouri most of the early crop, especially on uplands, has been ruined. In the Plains States there has been some local relief, but high temperatures and drought have taken heavy toll in many places. Early in August Iowa experienced an extreme heat wave, with all previous high temperature records broken in some places, and this, following the driest July in 36 years, with corn in its most critical stage; the earliest was in roasting ears, but few kernels were showing on the cob, and the bulk was in tassel, the most dangerous stage of growth to be unfavorably affected by high temperatures.

In the Cotton Belt, weather conditions have changed very little for several weeks. It has been generally warm, with considerable rain in the eastern belt, but dry in the central and western portions. In the West, recent local showers have been beneficial, especially in western Arkansas, but the drought is, in general, still unrelieved. Growth of cotton has been fair to

good in the southern portion of Texas, but the crop has been badly harmed in the northern two-thirds of the State, with bolls and plants small, blooming at the top, and prematurely opening. Upland cotton in Oklahoma also, has suffered badly, with plants wilting under the hot sun, shedding and blooming at the top. Most of Arkansas is still very dry and other central sections of the belt need rain.

In the eastern Cotton States, showers have made more favorable conditions, and cotton is progressing satisfactorily in most places. Now, our time is up, and hoping for better things for August, though this morning's weather ^{may} does not justify such hope for the immediate future, we must say good-bye until next month.

